

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20507

26 AUG 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Frank A. Sieverts
Deputy Coordinator for Prisoner of War
and Missing in Action Matters
Department of State

Mr. Bruce L. Heller
Commander, USN (R)
Chief, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Branch
Resources and Installations Division
Directorate for Intelligence (Research Center)
Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. Roger E. Shields
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(International Security Affairs)
International Economic Affairs
and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Affairs

FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : 1. Americans Remaining in Saigon and Reported
Capture of Two Americans Near Vung Tau
2. American Prisoners, Including War Wounded,
Allegedly Still Held in Vietnam

Attached as of possible interest to you is a report
resulting from the debriefings of [redacted]



Log 488

I
26 AUG/70

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Log 688

4 JUN 1982

RELEASED

Enclosure 8 (S-56,169/DB-4)

5

3
3
The information on the two Americans living at the International Red Cross compound in Saigon in May 1976 is included for your information, although possibly these two individuals are no longer in Vietnam. We have taken no further action [REDACTED] We are giving this report no further dissemination.

4
5
William E. Wells

Attachment:
Report as Stated
FIR-317/09155-76

FIR-317/09155-76

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

DOI : LATE MARCH-JULY 1976

SUBJECT: 1. AMERICANS REMAINING IN SAIGON AND REPORTED
CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS NEAR VUNG TAU
2. AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING WAR WOUNDED,
ALLEGEDLY STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM

ACQ :

SOURCE :

SECRET
CLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. AS OF MID-MAY 1976 TWO AMERICANS WHO WERE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE WERE LIVING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMPOUND IN SAIGON. THEIR NICKNAMES AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTI ARE GIVEN. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975, THE COMMUNISTS CLAIMED THE CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICAN AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE IN VUNG TAU AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES THERE HELD A MOCK TRIAL

2 [REDACTED] I

TO TRY THESE PRISONERS. IN MAY 1976 A NORTH VIETNAMESE CADRE WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO SAIGON TOLD A SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONTACT THAT HE HAS SEEN "MANY" AMERICAN PRISONERS IN HANOI WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM WAR WOUNDS OR MENTAL DISORDERS. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS TOLD A SAIGON BLACK MARKETEER THAT SERIOUSLY ILL AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS FEARED THEIR RELEASE WOULD HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION. IN EARLY JULY 1976 A NORTH VIETNAMESE SECURITY OFFICIAL PROCESSING A GROUP DEPARTING VIETNAM AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT, WHEN PURPOSELY PROVOKED BY A QUESTION ON AMERICAN PRISONERS STILL IN VIETNAM, REPLIED THAT "THEY WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY." END SUMMARY.

1. TWO MALE AMERICANS WERE LIVING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (IRC), COMPOUND IN SAIGON AS OF MID-MAY 1976. BOTH MEN FORMERLY WERE EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LAST
SAW THE TWO AMERICANS APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS BEFORE [REDACTED] B
[REDACTED] 22 MAY 1976.

2. ONE OF THE MEN WAS NAMED "JOHNNY" OR "JIMMY" (LNU). HE WAS 28-30 YEARS OLD, APPROXIMATELY 170 POUNDS, AND 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL. HE HAD CURLY DARK BROWN HAIR WITH A GOATEE, BROWN EYES, FAIR COMPLEXION, MUCH BODY HAIR, AND NO NOTICEABLE SCARS. HE WORE GLASSES AND HAD A MANNERISM WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS OFTEN. THIS MAN WAS KNOWN TO SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH. HIS HEALTH APPEARED TO BE GOOD.

3. THE SECOND MAN WAS NAMED "BILL" (LNU). HE WAS IN HIS EARLY 30'S, WAS LESS THAN 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED ABOUT 180 POUNDS. HE HAD DARK BROWN HAIR, A RUDDY COMPLEXION, AND NO NOTICEABLE MANNERISMS. IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH, HE SPOKE SOME VIETNAMESE AND A LITTLE FRENCH.

4. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975 WHILE [REDACTED]

A)

IN VUNG TAU, [REDACTED] WAS TOLD [REDACTED] THAT EARLIER
TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN
THE SMALLER OF TWO MOUNTAIN AREAS NEAR BACK BEACH IN VUNG
TAU. [REDACTED] THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES HAD REQUIRED

THEM TO GO TO THE CITY CENTER WHERE THEY SAW TWO AMERICANS
AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE TIED TOGETHER BEING MARCHED THROUGH
THE STREETS. THE AUTHORITIES STATED THESE PRISONERS HAD BEEN
CAPTURED IN THE SMALLER MOUNTAIN AREA, WHICH WAS PLACED OFF

LIMITS BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF RESISTANCE FORCES
THERE. [REDACTED] DID NOT PROVIDE [REDACTED] WITH PHYSICAL

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE AMERICANS THEY SAW. ON A SUBSEQUENT VISIT
TO VUNG TAU SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, [REDACTED]

B)

[REDACTED] HEARD OVER LOUDSPEAKERS THAT A MOCK TRIAL FOR THESE
PRISONERS WAS CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN BEACH AREA, AT WHICH THE
COMMUNIST PROSECUTORS SAID THAT ANYONE BEARING ARMS AGAINST THE
COMMUNIST REGIME WOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. NO PRISONERS WERE
PRESENT AT THE TRIAL AND NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF AMERICANS WAS
MADE DURING THE TRIAL. ALTHOUGH ALL PRISONERS WERE SENTENCED TO
DEATH, [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THE AMERICANS WERE

EXECUTED, BUT VUNG TAU RESIDENTS SAID THAT ONE VIETNAMESE
EX-COLONEL CAPTURED ON THAT OCCASION HAD BEEN KILLED.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: WHETHER THE TWO CAPTURED INDIVIDUALS
IDENTIFIED AS "AMERICANS" WERE ACTUALLY NON-AMERICAN
CAUCASIANS CANNOT BE DETERMINED. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST
AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THESE "AMERICANS" WERE INVOLVED IN
RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES, THEY POSSIBLY WERE MERELY IN HIDING
IN VUNG TAU, WHICH IS A WELL KNOWN AREA FOR ESCAPE FROM
VIETNAM BY BOAT. NO FURTHER INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED ON
THE CONDITION, TREATMENT AND FATE OF THESE "AMERICANS.")

S. IN MAY 1976, [REDACTED] A SAIGON RESIDENT [REDACTED] A, B

[REDACTED] SAID A FRIEND OF HIS TOLD OF SEEING
"MANY" AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE HANOI AREA. THE FRIEND ADDED
THAT ALL OF THE PRISONERS WERE EITHER SERIOUSLY INJURED, I.E.
CRIPPLED BY WAR WOUNDS OR SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISORDERS
RELATING TO THEIR LONG IMPRISONMENT OR HARSH TREATMENT. [REDACTED]

B.

[REDACTED] I
[REDACTED] B
[REDACTED]
(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE TIME FRAME FOR THE OBSERVATION
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN. SINCE SOME OF THESE AMERICANS
WERE REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM WAR WOUNDS, THEY COULD
POSSIBLY BE PRISONERS OF WAR.)

6. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, [REDACTED] A SOUTH
VIETNAMESE GIRL [REDACTED] B
SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS NVA OFFICERS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SAID THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD
IN NORTH VIETNAM. THEY ALSO TOLD HER THAT SINCE THESE
PRISONERS WERE ALL SICK OR BADLY INJURED, THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) AUTHORITIES WERE AFRAID OF A POSSIBLE
UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD THEY BE RELEASED.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE TIME FRAME FOR THE CONTINUED
DETENTION OF THESE AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN.)

7. IN JULY 1976, [REDACTED] A NVA SECURITY OFFICIAL A
AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT WHO WAS PROCESSING A GROUP OF FOREIGNERS
[REDACTED] I

WHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM, WAS
DELIBERATELY PROVOKED BY ONE OF THEM [REDACTED]
ON THE SUBJECT OF AMERICANS STILL IMPRISONED. WHEN [REDACTED]
WAS ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO "MORE THAN 10 AMERICANS
STILL IN VIETNAMESE JAILS, [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT "THEY WOULD
BE HANDLED SEPARATELY." [REDACTED] INTERPRETED THIS REPLY TO
BE AN ADMISSION BY THE NVA OFFICERS THAT SOME AMERICANS
WERE STILL IMPRISONED IN VIETNAM.

SUBJECT: 1. AMERICANS REMAINING IN SAIGON AND REPORTED CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS NEAR VUNG TAU
2. AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING WAR WOUNDED, ALLEGEDLY STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM

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FIR-317/01955-76

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F, H
ORIGINATED: [REDACTED] (-August 1976)

E, I, J, D
BASED ON : [REDACTED] SOURCE: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

G
OBTAINED BY: [REDACTED]